

# shape my street

a design competition for primary schools in Wales

Key Stage 2

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## SHAPE MY STREET: a design competition for primary schools in Wales

### Introduction

For two years, with support from the Design Commission for Wales and RSAW, Cardiff University has run the SHAPE MY STREET competition. We have been overwhelmed by the quality of submissions, and feedback from learners and teachers has been fantastic:

*"I was particularly impressed with the children's work when collaborating on creating their street. They showed much empathy and social understanding when debating what amenities the community would require, who should have access to the best views and in their determination to design quality public spaces... I'm looking forward to extending the project into a whole STEM week."* Matt Worth, head teacher Ffynon Taf Primary (winners, 2018)

The free-to-enter competition is designed to introduce young learners to ideas about home, place and community. Within structured, creative activities, classmates will discuss which aspects of 'home' and 'street' make successful neighbourhoods. The competition activities are intended to develop understanding of the importance of design and quality in the built environment, and raise awareness of careers in design and related creative industries.

The competition is intended to maximise engagement across primary schools in Wales, and any KS2 class is eligible to participate. Participation in the competition requires at least two half days in-school. A particular aim of the programme is to encourage participation from learners in remote geographic locations and economically disadvantaged communities. All competition resources and support materials are freely available online, and any questions can be answered via email. Staff and student ambassadors at the WSA are happy to help run sessions in schools to support uptake of the competition where possible.



Creation and testing of a physical model, along the lines of Planning for Real exercises, as pictured here.

## Aims and objectives

This document outlines a proposal for an engagement project with the following key aims:

- To increase awareness of the importance of design in the creation of buildings, places and communities, among children between the ages of 7 and 11.
- To stimulate discussion around community, neighbourhood and place.
- To combine science and technology learning with creative exercises.
- To raise the profile of careers in design and the creative industries.
- To provide an introduction to higher education and related opportunities, particularly in economically disadvantaged or geographically remote areas.



The practical activities and active learning experiences delivered within the project address five of the seven Foundation Phase areas of learning, as follows:

### **personal and social development, well-being and cultural diversity**

Children will develop understanding of factors that contribute to community, neighbourhood, character and place.

### **language, literacy and communication skills**

Children will engage in discussion about their homes and neighbourhoods, and their ideas around how to improve these places.

### **mathematical development**

Children will work with nets to build three dimensional shapes and spaces, and will apply numeracy skills / develop a basic understanding of density.

### **knowledge and understanding of the world**

Children will be encouraged to think about their own neighbourhoods, but also to learn about different communities and ways of living.

### **creative development**

Children will be encouraged to explore creative concepts and share ideas for place making and community building, both individually and as a class.

## Programme

The proposed sequence of events and activities is as follows:

Feb 2020	Competition launch, school sign-up and distribution of materials.
Feb - May 2020	Classroom-based activities (to be completed in two half days): 1A Discussion of 'home' and house types (class / group) 1B Design and make houses from nets (individual) 2A Discussion of 'street' and neighbourhood (class / group) 2B Design communal pattern and shared spaces (class) 2C Discuss and record outcome (class)
<b>29 May 2020</b>	<b>Deadline for submission of entries</b>
June 2020	Judging – three classes of 'winners' to be selected
Followed by:	Winners' event, details to be confirmed:  Activity day for three winning classes, exhibition and prizes.

This year's winners event was a collaborative design day in Cardiff – the Big Design – between three winning classes and 140 year2 students at the Welsh School of Architecture.

## Registration

Registration is free. Classes wishing to participate should send an email confirming this to [shapemystreet@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:shapemystreet@cardiff.ac.uk) with contact details for a supervising teacher.

## Resources that will be provided via email on registration

- house nets (pdf, for printing)
- 'house' presentation for class discussion (pdf and powerpoint)
- 'street' presentation for class discussion (pdf and powerpoint)
- participant's log (pdf, for printing)

## References

Article on competition pilot <https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/news/view/1180851-pupils-design-their-ideal-neighbourhoods>

Planning for real sample image [http://planning4real.eu/?page\\_id=636](http://planning4real.eu/?page_id=636)

WG topics: Foundation phase <http://gov.wales/topics/educationandskills/foundation-phase/?lang=en>

*Shape my Town* toolkit <http://www.shapemytown.org/about/>

*My Square Mile* activities [http://resources.hwb.wales.gov.uk/VTC/ngfl/2007-08/art/my\\_square\\_mile/index.html](http://resources.hwb.wales.gov.uk/VTC/ngfl/2007-08/art/my_square_mile/index.html)

“The street is a room by agreement.” Louis Kahn